



At one of the evening discussions at the late meeting of the New England Agricultural Society, the subject of Cattle Breeding was discussed by some of the most eminent and successful agriculturists of New England, and although the remarks were intended to be confined to the principles and philosophy of breeding, the discussion assumed a much wider range, including the merits of different breeds, the fattening of cattle, the cutting of grass in order to obtain the greatest amount of nourishment, the cooking of food for stock, &c. We should be glad had we room for the report of this most useful discussion, in full, but as that is impossible, content ourselves with a brief allusion to the remarks of some of the speakers.

**Manual Labor at the Agricultural College.**

Perhaps one of the most important of the minor questions, and the most difficult to decide, in the system of operations at the College farm of the Agricultural College, will be that of the amount, &c., of manual labor to be required of the students. It is evident that some labor, or a certain, and it should be a fixed amount must be performed by each student else practical agriculture will not go hand in hand with the theoretical. If such was not to be the fact we should have a very poor opinion of the school or of the results it would be likely to effect.

In the first place, each student should be obliged to perform manual labor in some one of the departments for at least two hours and better three hours each secular day—two hours to be the minimum, and this amount would be no more than would be required to obtain the quantity of exercise necessary for the physical well being of a young man capable of becoming a thorough practical farmer.

Again, as to the time of day when the labor should be performed. Of course there are times in the season when no fixed rule can be carried out conveniently on the farm, as for instance in having time, when if the work is done principally by the students, more time and at all hours of the day would be required. But a general rule would be advisable for nearly the whole year. We think the time from three to six or from four to seven P. M., according to the season, far preferable for the students to occupy in manual labor. Among our reasons are that at that time the heat of the day in the summer time is over, the body and mind will be refreshed and ready for sleep and rest at bed time, and the first half or the forenoon of the day is much the best for study and intellectual labor. Of this latter fact we have had ample proof both as teacher and pupil, and in fact are made aware of it every day of our lives. One hour from seven till ten A. M. is worth two from noon till six P. M. to us for brain labor and we have no reason to believe we are an exception to the general rule.

In the morning the student will go first to his books and studies, and after the brain becomes tired he can exercise the physical system—body—short time, and then prepare for rest and sleep with both the brain and the muscles in proper and healthy condition.

This is our opinion, briefly, upon this minor question. We have no doubt but our friend Johnson, the Farm Superintendent, will operate in this matter near right as under the circumstances, for he fully understands from experience the requirements and the conditions of the brain and the body so far as mental and manual labor are concerned.

**Corn Fodder—Topping Corn.**

Corn fodder well saved possesses a good deal of nutriment, and is valuable forage. It pays well for the farmer, who even raises but a small field of corn, to take pains to secure the stalks in good condition.

It was and is the practice of many farmers to "top" their corn before it is ripe, that is, cut off the stalk just above the ear. This was done not so much to save the tops for fodder as with the belief that the corn would ripen better and faster. We do not know that it has ever been proved that corn ripened better by being topped; and our own experience does not show such a result. We never could discover any difference in that topped or untopped in the same field. However, these tops make most excellent fodder, superior to hay, and are easily cured and stored. If the suckers, and all stalks not bearing ears, with the larger leaves were gathered at the same time, it would make a prime feed for milch cows during the winter. This, we understand, is the famous "fodder" so often spoken of in the Southern States, though as far as we know, that was never had in New England.

Mr. Everett of Princeton gave some account of the manner in which cattle are fattened in his town. Mr. Everett fattens about one hundred head every year, and in the town from seven hundred to a thousand head are fattened every summer. They are fattened principally in the summer season by grazing, and but few head are fattened in the winter on meal or oats. This is undoubtedly the cheapest method of fattening beef, and in our opinion should be employed more generally than it is by all our farmers. In speaking of the nutritive qualities of hay, Mr. Everett said:—"The farmers of New England are losing every year hundreds of thousands of dollars in letting their hay remain after the 20th of July—their English hay. No hay should ever stand until after the blossom falls from the head of the grass. One ton of hay out the 10th of July or from the first to the 10th, will put more fat upon oxen or steers; it will make more milk, butter or cheese, than two tons will put any time during the last two or three weeks." In regard to the breed best adapted for fattening, he gave the choice to the Hereford, as they put on more fat, according to the feed consumed than any other breed. One of the gentlemen, Mr. Wheeler, from this State, spoke in favor of the Dutch stock, and remarked:—"My Dutch heifers, which have had their second calf, will give more milk than any other heifers I ever saw. I tell that milk. They are poor, although I feed them better than any cattle I have; all that I give them seems to go to milk." The question of feeding steamed or cut feed was discussed at some length, and we copy the remarks of Mr. Allen upon this point:

"I have no doubt that animals can be cheaply and economically fed upon cooked food; but there are other considerations which must be taken into account. It is necessary to preserve the health and constitution of the animals. If a man destroys the health and constitution of his animals, he defeats the great object he has in view. If you take an animal and put him into a stable, and feed him upon cooked food for five years, you destroy him. In the first place, his teeth are gone. If you feed him on slops, he loses his teeth, and, in my opinion, he will deteriorate. I don't think you can keep up the breed by feeding them in that way, but the animals will deteriorate. If I eat a good meal, and the animal does not live and grow, and do not produce well enough to make it a very remunerative specimen of farming."

**How to get Good Cows.**

Supposing one of our small farmers should inquire—"I want to raise a small herd of the best cows for milk and butter, especially butter, as I am not so situated as to be able to sell milk. How shall I get them?" Our answer would be briefly: Select the best milkers from your own stock of common cows, "heifers," or "grades," whatever you may term them, or if they do not suit you, buy the best you can find of that class, and only those that you know give rich milk and a good quantity. Use upon them a Jersey bull and the progeny will be pretty sure to give rich milk, though the quantity may not be very large, and the animals will be small. Use a Short Horn bull and you will get heifers large, in frame, and greater milk producers, but it will not be so rich in butter making qualities.

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# THE MAINE FARMER: AN AGRICULTURAL AND FAMILY NEWSPAPER.

The Maine Farmer.

Augusta, Saturday, Sept. 26, 1868.

## TERMS OF THE MAINE FARMER.

\$5.00 in advance, or \$5.50 if not paid within three months of the date of publication.

**These terms will be rigidly adhered to in all cases.**

All payments made by subscribers to the Farmer will be credited in accordance with our new mailing method. The printed date upon the paper, in connection with the subscriber's name, will show the time to which he has paid, and will constitute, in all cases, a valid receipt for money remitted by him.

Any subscriber desiring to change the post office direction of his paper must communicate to us the name of the place to which it has previously been sent, otherwise we shall be unable to comply with his request.

### COLLECTORS' NOTICE.

Mr. V. DARLING is now canvassing the county of York.

Mr. C. B. STODDARD will call on our subscribers in Lincoln county during the ensuing few weeks.

Mr. L. B. STODDARD is now on a collecting and canvassing tour in Nova Scotia.

### Progress of Civilization.

Among the momentous signs of the times is to be observed the rapid strides of civilization all over the globe. Explorations from bold adventurers into unknown lands are followed in quick succession by the adventurers in trade, and these in turn are followed by the arts of civilized life. It was but a few years since the islands of the Great Pacific were shut out to the European world by borders of savage cannibals. Now they are becoming not only civilized, but also Christianized. In many instances the superior European race is supplanting the native races.

If we turn to the East we shall find the Southern part of Asia overrun by European conquest. A railroad a thousand miles long now extends from Calcutta to Delhi. This alone is a mighty civilization. It must employ thousands of men of superior intelligence who will control the minds of all whom they come in contact. European arts and habits are fast taking the place of native talents, and a people long bound by the iron chains of caste are slowly working their way out of their dark prison houses into the light of civil, intelligent and religious freedom.

Japan, far remote in the Indian Ocean, who beheaded the foreigner from every nation that set foot on its shores, a few years since was compelled by one of our naval commanders to do homage to the American flag beneath the frowning guns of our ships of war. No instance in modern diplomacy is recorded whose results were so decisive in breaking down the barrier between the Japanese and foreigners.

Now we have commercial relations with Japan, and here young princes come to this country to be educated in the language and arts and sciences of civilized life. In a few years more we may expect large commercial intercourse with this remote country.

China, which a few years since declined to look at a foreigner, or at modern improvements, is now gradually breaking down her prejudices by opening her ports to trade, while her princes are traversing our country to-day to carry back with them what ever may be of advantage to them at home.

The moment the steamship or the railroad reaches a people it annihilates not only space, but also all the hitherto impassable barriers to national intercourse. If the railroad or the cars meet a man or a people they must let it pass or be knocked over and crushed by them. Knowledge and power are moving to and fro over the whole face of the earth, and it is an idle man or any body of men to stay this progress as it is to attempt to stay the currents of the ocean.

This expansion of the civilized portions of the globe are absolutely necessary for the human race. Over three-fourths of the globe the human mind had become stagnant and required something to stir it up lest it become wholly paralyzed beyond recovery.

It is a grand study for the contemplative mind to watch the progress of events all over the globe. As we take our newspaper we are enabled to know everything that has transpired of importance nearly over the whole earth within the week. The ocean telegraph shuns along the news beneath its waters so that we whose location is on the western continent are now placed side by side with the old countries of the East.

But no where on the face of the globe is the progress of civilization more rapid than within our own national boundaries. The buffalo and the red man alike are pushed back to the recesses of the Rocky Mountains and soon we may see the whole vast and hitherto unknown West settled by a busy population pursuing the habits, the arts and the sciences and general knowledge of the most favored portions of the globe.

**ARMED AND ALLEGED INCENDIARIES.** On Thursday last three enlisted men at the U. S. Arsenal in this city, named James H. Fairbairn, James W. Harwood, and Geo. E. Knox, were arrested and brought before J. H. Masley, Esq., U. S. Commissioner, charged with setting the fires which occurred on the Arsenal grounds on the night of July 9th, and Aug. 6th last. These arrests were effected through discoveries made by Mr. Sargent, a skilful detective officer of Boston. It is believed that the two first named were concerned in the fire which destroyed the stone stable the night of the 9th of July, and that Knox, who was on guard when the fire was discovered on the night of the 6th of August, and whose inconsistent and contradictory statements awakened suspicion against him, is implicated with others as yet unknown in the crime of incendiarism. The men were each held to recognize his \$10,000 bail; failing to obtain which, they were committed for trial. Gen. F. Talbot, Esq., U. S. District Attorney, conducted the examination in person. Gen. Totten, of the U. S. Army has been in this city for the past four weeks investigating these cases.

**AMENDMENT TO THE STATE CONSTITUTION.** At the recent election the question was submitted to the people for an amendment to the constitution permitting the State to assume the war debts of the cities, towns and plantations of Maine to an amount not exceeding three and a half millions of dollars. It will be remembered that an act was passed at the last session of the Legislature for the examination of municipal war debts and a limited assumption and reimbursement therewith by the State, which provides for the reimbursement of towns to the amount of \$100 for each man furnished for three years.

In the excitement of the political canvas, very little attention was given to the question of assumption, and comparatively few votes were thrown. So far as is ascertained, however, there is a very decided majority for assumption. The cities voted in favor, to 111 opposed. Lewiston gave 802 votes in favor, to 18 opposed.

**THE EQUITY OF REDEMPTION.** On Friday last the equity of redemption on the mortgage of the Augusta House and furniture in this city, held by Hon. J. H. Williams and Col. G. W. Stanley, was sold on Friday last in auction to A. F. Farwell, Esq., for \$850. The house was enlarged, remodeled and refurnished in 1864 at an expense of about \$75,000. About \$50,000 of this amount was obtained by subscriptions of our citizens and the city government, the latter contributing \$10,000 for the purpose. The balance of \$25,000 was raised by mortgage of the property. The right of redemption being about to expire, it was sold as above stated. We understand that Mr. Farwell since the sale has received liberal offers for the purchase of the property and that a transfer of his interest will probably soon be made on terms advantageous to all concerned. The House is large and commodious, admirably located both for summer and winter business, and under the excellent management of Mr. King, the present landlord, has acquired a reputation not surpassed by any hotel in Maine.

**RIOT IN GEORGIA.** A terrible riot occurred in the town of Camilla, Ga., on Saturday last, growing out of political feeling, and resulting in five persons, mostly colored people being killed and wounded. Wm. Pierce, the white Republican candidate for Congress from the Second District was wounded. Accounts are conflicting in regard to the origin of the difficulty and the parties making the assault. Orders have been issued to the General commanding the District to make full investigations and report the particulars of the affair to the President.

### Editorial Correspondence.

CHICAGO, Aug. 4, 1868.

DEAR FARMER.—Chicago! shouted the conductor as the train entered the city along the shores of Lake Michigan. Leaving the cars in the evening with valises in hand, we soon found our way to the Sherman House, when we retired for the night. Waking early in the morning we began very soon to visit what was to be seen about a city that we desired to visit more than any other in the Union. Probably no city in the world can boast of so rapid a growth as Chicago. We had the curiosity to look for it in the *Encyclopaedia Americana*, published in 1860, and it was not there. We never heard of it in our boyhood. In 1850 it was laid out, and in 1857 incorporated into a city with about 4,000 inhabitants. Since that time it has doubled in population every five years, till now it numbers about a quarter of a million of souls. So astonishing has been its growth that its own residents have ceased to brag about it, as its growth is even more rapid than their most cherished anticipations. Ask a Chicagoite something about his city, and he will put on a popular air, put his thumb on his nose and tell you to look for yourself. The city was built almost on a level with the lake, on the banks of a sluggish stream which comes from the prairies. Never was a city built in a worse mudhole, but they have raised the streets about four feet, and paved them with the Nicholson pavement, and made sidewalks, usually twenty feet wide, and covered with marble slabs as smooth as a floor, so that the city appears to be excellent advantage. An old resident pointed out a spot now covered with teams and humanity, where he had seen a man with his yoke of oxen and cart loaded with only a barrel of molasses, stuck in the mud—drive and sit.

Everything in the city betokened business on a large scale. Everywhere can be seen immense marble blocks of buildings in process of erection. The marble is obtained from the Joliet limestone, a few miles distant. It is dressed by machinery. We saw some new pavements that had been planned with a planing machine just like a board. The public buildings are nearly all made of this marble. It has a soft, pleasing effect, of a yellowish tinge, and inclined to grow darker from exposure.

Chicago is a city for doing many things. If she wants water, she goes two miles into the lake and sinks a well there, and carries it beneath the bed of the lake by a tunnel to the shores of the city, where it is pumped up by five immense engines.

Mr. Gilbert of Kendall's Mills, entered the grey Knox stallion T. S. Lang, three years old, which was beaten by Chas. Jackson's sorrel and Mr. Sherman's roan, three years old.

Mr. Hallett of Waterville, exhibited a black, four years old Knox stallion, closely resembling his sire in color, size and gait.

Mr. Henson of West Waterville, exhibited a fine, sixteen hands high Knox stallion, four years old.

Samuel Taylor of Fairfield, exhibited a large, handsome, sixteen hands, grey Knox stallion, four years old.

Mr. Webb of Augusta, exhibited a beautiful black, five years old Knox mare.

Mr. Ricker of Smithfield, exhibited a valuable four years old bay by Knox.

T. S. Lang entered one four-year-old Knox brown mare, who attracted much attention, for which he was offered \$1,000. Also one pair of five and six years old black Knox mares, fifteen hands three inches high, weighing 1,120 and 1,122 pounds each, closely matched, for which he was offered \$1,500 upon the ground. This pair took the first premium. Mr. Lang also exhibited one pair of Knox grey mares, four and five years old. Two thoroughbreds mares with Knox colts by their sides, which also took first and second premiums.

No other thoroughbreds were entered.

Abram Woodward of Bangor, entered his black Knox stallion Gen. Sherman, trotting him in two well contested heats, one with O. S. Shaw's Penobscot Chief, and Mr. Marble's Richmond Boy, with which he won the first heat, showing great bursts of speed.

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No other thoroughbreds were entered.

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